



First Presbyterian Church

The Mustard Seed

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 2022, Issue 07, First Presbyterian Church, Helena, Montana July 2022

This month:

After June's many joyous celebrations, we slip into the quieter time of summer.

But that doesn't mean the congregation is inactive.

Although several of the committees will not meet this month, mission projects and fellowship opportunities continue.

And, of course, we continue to gather to worship God each Sunday, at 10 a.m.

May your summer be restful and renewing.



Anniversary quartet

Les Cramer, Hezekiah Rowland, John Warren and Vic Reiman provide musical entertainment during the 150th anniversary celebration June 19. See more pictures on page 5.

(Kathy Chambers photo)



Fond Farewell

The congregation bid farewell to Pastor Scott & Merilee Wiperman on Sunday, June 5. Scott has accepted a call at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Ogden, Utah. Above, Merilee and Scott pose with the cake at the reception.

(Les Cramer photo)

**Join us
for worship!
Sundays, 10 a.m.
or online @
fpc.helena.org**

Camp hosts 'TIM Talk' July 10-12

"Go, Proclaim the Kingdom of God," is the theme of the summer TIM (Theology in Ministry) Talk, July 10-12, at Glacier Camp.

The program, which explores Jesus' journey as recorded in Luke's Gospel, begins with dinner Sunday, July 10, at 5:30 p.m., and concludes with a sack lunch Tuesday at 12:30 p.m.

For more information, email the camp at: info@glaciercamp.org or visit the website at www.glaciercamp.org.

Scholarships are available to help with costs. For details, email the camp at: timothy@glaciercamp.org for details.

Congregational Fellowship Opportunities

Hand & Foot Card Playing

Fridays, 1:30 p.m., Fellowship Room

Never played? No problem! The game is easy to learn and willing teachers abound.

Pinochle, Anyone?

We'd like to add Pinochle to our fellowship lineup.

Please let Barb Leland (barb640@hotmail.com) know if you're interested in playing this fun, 4-person game.

Bingo!

Friday, July 8, 6 p.m., Fellowship Room

Pizza, pop and snacks at 6 p.m. -- Bingo starts at 6:30. Bring friends and family.

Lots of prizes to go around!



Lost Soles Hike

Sunday, July 17, 7 p.m.

Meet in the church parking lot at 7 p.m. We will hike around Spring Meadow Lake -- and possibly stop for a treat afterwards!

“God Blessed America”

If you are of a certain age, you may remember Tubbs Market, 627 Euclid at the intersection of Garfield. It started as a fruit stand, then became a grocery store featuring Helena's first walk-in cooler. Its founder and long-time owner was Robert Tubbs. His obituary described him as a man of faith, a WWII veteran, and community activist. He was a founding member of the Belmont (Great Divide) Ski Club. He was largely responsible for placing the land around the Sleeping Giant into a permanent conservation land trust.



The Tubbs Market building is now the Copper Club. I have no idea whether the current owner is a person of substance and character as was Robert Tubbs. I do know I have been blessed by the message that is on the sign board: “Good Blessed America.”

God has blessed America with citizens like Robert Tubbs—people who loved God and their neighbors enough to work at making their part of the world a better place.

We are in an election year. It will soon be crazy season, even more so than it already is. We will be inundated with political ads. Our doorknobs will soon become pegs for flyers hung by volunteers advocating one candidate or another. We will be subjected to campaign events and newscasts where political candidates and their supporters will end speeches with a hearty “God Bless America.”

I'll let theologians, philosophers and other deep thinkers ponder whether it is reasonable to ask the God who “so loved the world” to specifically bless our particular corner of creation.

We know God blessed America. The blessing of geography which has allowed America to become a food basket for the world. The blessing of geology which provides uncommon resources. The blessing of immigrants who brought the best ideas of their native lands to our continent.

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Blessed . . .

(Continued from page 3)

The blessing of what may be the world's only successful revolution installing a new government better than its predecessor. The blessing of extraordinary people establishing that government with a succession of leaders and office holders seeing themselves as servants holding their position as a trust limited by time and authority. God blessed America.

An honest review of our history does not suggest we earned our “favored nation” status. It is God's grace that blessed us—blessed us abundantly beyond merit. Unmerited grace merits unlimited gratitude.

Presbyterians have exercised that gratitude by serving in positions of trust and authority throughout our nation's history. Presbyterian polity and practice holds public service as a high calling. There is much of Presbyterian polity and theology reflected in our nation's founding documents. John Witherspoon, Moderator of the first PC(US) General Assembly (1788) and President of the College of New Jersey (aka Princeton), was the only clergy signatory of the Declaration of Independence.

Independence Day, the fourth of July is almost here. There will be fireworks, flag waving and conspicuous patriotism. I had the privilege of working with School Boards for several years. I observed board members' inconspicuous patriotism; placing their names, their egos on the ballot for acceptance or rejection by the community, subjecting themselves to public criticism for good-faith decisions, attending interminable meetings, taking responsibility to train those who will make our old age bearable, all without remuneration. There are many inconspicuous patriots doing so much for so many in our community -- committee members, volunteers, folks answering the call to jury duty, serving as election workers, paying taxes, picking up discarded gum wrappers—people like Robert Tubbs.

In a very real sense, we Christians are foreigners living in a foreign land. We hold a kind of dual citizenship, but our primary and priority citizenship is as servants of the king of the kingdom of heaven. Because our citizenship is in heaven, it means we are heaven's representatives sent here. We are Christ's ambassadors. We exercise our gratitude for the blessing of living in such a blessed place by being patriots, good citizens in the land God has so richly blessed.

*- Arlyn “Butch” Plowman
Commissioned Lay Pastor*

150th Anniversary Celebration



Time travelers

First Presbyterian Church of Helena celebrated its 150th anniversary June 19, with an open house, music, a skit based on letters from the past and a beautifully decorated cake. Above, Barb Leland, Dianna Goodman and Jane Ogle bring to life conversations from the early years of the church; and a photo of the anniversary cake.

(Photos by Kathy Chambers & Mary Stiles)

Workshops coming in September

A series of workshops titled “Future Vision” will be presented at First Presbyterian Church in September.

Presenters and their topics are: Rob Hagan, Legacy Giving; Joe Tackett, Wills and Trusts; St Peter’s, Hospice/

Palliative Care/Advanced Directive; and James Olson, Home Care.

The Presbyterian Foundation will provide lunch and snacks.

Watch for event dates and details in bulletins and the August newsletter.

Deacons’ Benevolence Fund

The Deacons’ Benevolence Fund has been used several times during the pandemic.

Thanks to the congregation’s generous gifts, we have been able to fulfill every request.

We want to remind everyone that this fund is for you. If you need help to pay household or medical bills, buy groceries, medicine, or gas, we are here, ready to help. Just contact the church office, and we will get the ball rolling.

This is completely confidential; not even the deacons know who our recipients are. We are so happy to help! God bless!

From the FPC Mission Committee:

Pentecost Offering

The Pentecost Offering supports and nurtures the faith of our young people. Our Pentecost offering yielded \$311, with 40% retained by FPCH.

The Mission Committee chose the two Young Adult Volunteers in Chinook, Emma Kate Lander and Brendon Stump, as recipients. They will receive a check for \$150, which includes additional funds from our Mission Undesignated Funds. Thank you for your continued support of our youth.

**“Never look down on anybody
unless you’re helping them up.”**

- Jesse Jackson

Thank you for opening your hearts to hungry refugees!

During the month of May the Mission Committee asked for donations to purchase Refugee Food Baskets. During that month our donations were matched by PC-USA. We asked. **And you gave. And you gave generously!** We collected \$800; matching funds brought the total to \$1,600. Your generosity extended a helping hand of food and supplies to 32 families.

***“Sometimes it takes only one act of kindness and caring
to change a person’s life.”***

- Jackie Chan

Sunday, June 5

Pentecost, Installation/Ordination, Farewell

The congregation came together June 5 to celebrate Pentecost, install/ordain church leaders, and vote on the Dissolution of Call for Pastor Scott Wipperman.



Church leadership

Ordination/Installation of Deacons and Elders: From left, Karen Witte, Joy Edgar, Butch Plowman, Sheryl Eriksen, Mary Brainard, Vic Reiman, Jim Meyer, Carole Massman, Jeff Chaffee, Merle Korizek, Carol Stebbins, Pastor Scott Wipperman.



Choir Anthem

The choir, directed by Les Cramer, sings "Come, Holy Spirit."



Greetings

Pastor Scott greets the congregation after the service.

Refugee food basket project underway

The Mission Committee has chosen to support the refugee food basket program from the Presbyterian Giving Catalog.

In light of the war in Ukraine, famine and drought in Africa, hunger in America, and a multitude of additional places, we believe that, like the Good Samaritan, we can show mercy and care for those less fortunate. A basket of food and essential supplies will help those in need. Each basket will cost \$50, but any financial gift is worthy and needed.

First Presbyterian Church, Helena, will have our gifts combined with those throughout the denomination to provide baskets. Thank you for your generous support of this project. You may use checks and mark the memo line food baskets or donate securely through the website.

Willing Workers meet Wednesdays

The group continues to prepare for craft fairs and events. We invite everyone interested to attend the weekly gatherings, Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m., at the church. We need not only your ideas, but your crafts and your help to ensure success. We hope to put together many gift baskets containing hand crafted items, so we'd like your assistance with this new addition to the Craft Fair.

Confirmation class planned

The Christian Education Committee is planning to start a Confirmation Class in the fall, with the date to be determined.

The recommended ages are 13 years and up. Anyone who knows of a youth interested in taking the class can contact Mary Stiles at 401-474-1517 or email: dagrod41@gmail.com

FOOD SHARE:

The Mission Committee has resumed collecting food for Helena Food Share.

Our Boy Scout troop will collect and deliver donations as an ongoing service project.

Thanks for your help.

Coupons, We Need Your Coupons!!



We need your help by bringing in coupons for those in need here in our community. Please drop them off in the basket in the lobby as you come in the front door, or contact Tonna Strasko for more information.

Minutes of the Session

June 21, 2022

The regular meeting of the Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Helena was called to order on Tuesday, June 21, 2022, at 6:32 p.m., by Elder and CP “Butch” Plowman. Butch opened with a meditation centered on Matthew 20, followed by prayer. Butch moderated the meeting.

There was a quorum with the following Elders present in the church facility: Elders Sheryl Eriksen, Karen Witte, Carol Stebbins, Vic Reiman, Barb Leland, Rose Leavitt, Mary Stiles, John Coefield, Jeff Chaffee, and Jim Meyer. Also in attendance: Treasurer Leo Potter, Deacon Joy Edgar, and Clerk of Session John Gneckow. Guests included: Pam Chigbrow from Sunrise Presbyterian Church of Great Falls representing the Glacier Presbytery Committee on Ministry (COM), Memorial Committee Chairperson Kathy Chambers, and Worship Committee Chairperson Dianna Goodman. Elder Mary Wright was excused.

APPROVAL OF DOCKET: Clerk of Session added election of Commissioner to Presbytery for 2022-2023 and Elder Stiles asked for a consensus of comfort by newly appointed committee chairs. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the docket as amended.

INTRODUCTION OF COM REPRESENTATIVE: Pam Chigbrow from Great Falls Sunrise Church was introduced. She is the COM representative that will be the liaison between Presbytery and FPC, and resource guide during the search process for an interim and called pastor.

Pam was the moderator of the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) at Sunrise Church. The church conducted a mission study prior to election of PNC members. The committee met for one hour weekly and completed its work in the Spring 2022 with the installation of a new pastor. She also warned the Session that the process can take a couple of years to complete.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of May 17, 2022, as presented.

PASTOR’S REPORT: In his concluding report to Session, Pastor Scott noted that May was a deficit month for FPC as a result of payment of the semiannual property taxes and insurance premiums. He also noted that despite the deficit for the month, thanks to a generous donation, FPC is in the black overall year to date.

Pastor Scott also reminded Session that he is not available for any ministerial

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Session Minutes, (continued from page 9)

roles but will be happy to help with passwords or application how-to-do. Lastly, he invited anyone in the vicinity of Ogden, Utah, on a Sunday to stop by Trinity Presbyterian Church for worship.

CLERK'S REPORT: The Clerk reported that FPC received thank you notes from Family Promise, Intermountain, Presbyterian Mission, and the Giving Catalog for recent donations from FPC mission committee.

The Clerk also reported that Glacier Camp opened on June 19 with staff members from Oklahoma, Nebraska, Tennessee, and California. Also, a group from the Whitefish congregation and a group of teenagers from Neenah, Wisconsin, spent time at the camp working on various projects preceding the opening.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Administration Committee: Treasurer Leo Potter reported and a written report was submitted.

Leo Potter opened the meeting with prayer. The committee approved selling \$2,250 from the Linton account for three scholarships of \$750 each. A new computer was purchased for the Office Coordinator's use. Leo reported net operating revenue of \$10,723 through end of May 2022.

Building and Grounds: Elder John Coefield reported and a written report was submitted. John opened the meeting with prayer. The city has completed repairs to the pipe that was broken during installation of the ADA corner. A new AC compressor has been installed on the 11th Avenue side of the church, replacing the old one.

Christian Education Committee: Elder Mary Stiles reported and a written report was submitted. Pastor Scott opened the meeting with prayer.

The Sermon on the Mount Bible study which began May 5 will resume in September. Because of Pastor Scott's departure, we need a new study leader for the group.

FPC will host a day of workshops for the Helena community and surrounding area on September 17. Lunch will be served to participants courtesy of the Presbyterian Foundation. Topics include: Legacy Giving; Wills and Trusts; Home Care; and Hospice/Palliative Care/Advance Directives.

Three students were awarded scholarships of \$750 each to apply toward their college expenses. They are: Kelly Craigle (son of Mary Craigle), Steven Foster

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(son of Deb Whitcomb), and Carver Van Aken (grandson of John and Carol Gneckow).

Congregational Fellowship: Elder Sheryl Eriksen reported and a written report was submitted.

The 150th church anniversary celebration was a tremendous success and the newspaper article written by Vic Reiman set the tone for the day.

Hand and Foot has resumed. Bingo Night is scheduled for July 8. A Lost Soles hike to Spring Meadow Lake is scheduled for July 17, at 7 p.m.

Memorial Committee: Chairperson Kathy Chambers reported. The memorial plaque for Court Bourne has been installed.

The committee is planning to place Lona Albright's remains in the Memorial Garden on the west side of the church. Members did some research and learned that there is no law in Montana governing where or how the ashes may be disposed. The committee is considering the purchase of an urn in which to place the ashes currently stored in a cardboard box. They have already purchased a memorial plaque to place in the garden. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to inter Lona's remains in the FPC Memorial Garden on the west side of the church sanctuary.

Mission Committee: Elder Karen Witte reported. Pentecost Giving resulted in \$150 being sent to Presbytery in support of the Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program.

Donations from the congregation totaling \$800 were matched by PC-USA resulting in a \$1,600 donation to Catalog Giving.

Nominating Committee: No activity to report this month.

Personnel Committee: Elder Carol Stebbins reported that the committee did a meet and greet with their new chairperson Vic Reiman in June. No business was conducted.

Worship Committee: Chairperson Dianna Goodman reported and submitted a written report. Dianna opened the committee meeting with prayer. Various members of the committee were thanked for their contributions to the FPC worship services.

Dianna noted that as part of her training for Commissioned Lay Pastor, she will be expected to participate in all phases of church liturgical activities (communion, weddings, baptism, worship service, etc.,) as well as completing studies in theology, the Bible, and Presbyterianism.

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Session Minutes, (continued from page 11)

Deacon Report: Deacon Joy Edgar provided a written report of Board activities. Communion was served at Touchmark and the Masonic Home. No meals were provided to any FPC members during the month. No hospital visits were done.

Joy also noted that the new communion plates have arrived and will be kept under the communion table.

Covid Task Force: The Task Force is no longer meeting but is continuing to monitor the situation in the Helena area.

Old Business: The Moderator asked the Clerk of Session for an update on the status of the Farmers Insurance suit claiming that under their policy with FPC, no qualified deck collapse coverage exists. At the present time, by agreement between both parties, the suit is on hold pending the outcome of mediation in late August on additional liability for the camp's deck collapse.

Meanwhile, Presbytery has recommended that FPC consider hiring an attorney to defend against the suit. The Clerk has received the names of several attorneys within the state who have experience with insurance coverage issues. The Clerk was instructed to put together a plan to contact and qualify the attorneys from the list. Elders Jeff Chaffee and Mary Stiles volunteered to help the Clerk. (Subsequently, Elroy Letcher was contacted as he is also affected by Farmer's claim. Elroy agreed to help with formulating a plan to locate and qualify an attorney to help FPC with the Farmers' suit, if needed.)

New Business: A motion was put forth to continue John Coefield as the FPC commissioner to Glacier Presbytery until June 2023. The motion was seconded and passed.

The Moderator proposed and Session members concurred that FPC will follow tradition by not scheduling a regular July meeting.

There being no further business, it was moved and seconded at 8:30 p.m. to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried. The meeting was closed by each person in attendance listing one thing that they were thankful for on this day.

Next Regular Session Meeting: August 16, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.

John Gneckow

Clerk of Session

Thank You

Scholarship appreciated

Dear Scholarship Chair,

I am sincerely honored to have been selected as a recipient of the First Presbyterian Church Linton Scholarship. Thank you for your generosity.

I'm appreciative of your support.

Sincerely,
Carver Van Aken

You make me smile

First Presbyterian,

I smile as I think of you folks. Thank you for your partnership with us and making Jesus known where he is not.

Blessings to you all!

Andrew Christofferson



New communion plates created and donated by JMAC Pottery, Helena, have arrived.



Stuff the Bus!

2022...

We need your help this summer! In lieu of school supplies, Angel Fund will be giving monetary grant assistance to schools in the Helena area to purchase school supplies. Donations for students in need are even more important than ever. Our goal is to help 1,400 kids.

You can NOW donate on-line through PayPal for Stuff the Bus school supplies this fall:

- **Donate online at:**
www.angelfundhelena.org
- **Or by check:** PO Box 7436,
Helena, MT 59604



*Thank you for your support of
Helena area students for 16 years!*

Giving runs through August 5

JULY 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 1:30 pm Hand & Foot Cards	2
3 10 am Worship w/Communion 11 am Social Time	4 <i>Independence Day</i>	5 5:30 pm Personnel	6	7	8 1:30 pm Hand & Foot Cards 6 pm Bingo	9
10 10 am Worship 11 am Social Time	11	12	13 2 pm CFC Com. 4 pm Administra- tion Committee	14	15 1:30 pm Hand & Foot Cards	16
17 10 am Worship 11 am Social Time 7 pm Lost Soles Hike	18	19	20	21	22 1:30 pm Hand & Foot Cards <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	23
24 10 am Worship 11 am Social Time	25	26	27	28	29 1:30 pm Hand & Foot Cards	30
31 10 am Worship 11 am Social Time						

Help needed

If your skills include minor household repairs, please contact the church office. We have a member looking to hire someone.

Camp Scholarships available

Scholarships are available for children wanting to attend a Glacier Camp summer camp.

Camping season runs through July 30. Call the church office for details.

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

3rd - Eve & Nelson Seeley
18th - Patti & Tim Borsberry

22nd - Joni & William Miech
28th - Mary & Ward Stiles

JULY BIRTHDAYS

3rd Margaret Snyder
7th Joni Miech
13th Andrew Kaiser

24th Bill Peterson
24th Les Cramer
26th Deborah Drynan

DEACON ON CALL

BJ Burns - 439-4026

JULY COMMUNION SETUP

Sunday, July 3 - BJ Burns & Joy Edgar

JULY LAY LITURGISTS

July 3 Dianna Goodman
July 10 Patti Borsberry
July 17 Art Bumgardner
July 24 John Warren
July 31 Kathy Chambers

DEADLINE

The deadline for the August newsletter is Friday, July 22.

FINANCIAL DEADLINES

Completed Credit Card Request forms, Check Request forms, Personnel Forms and Time Sheets are due in the Financial Office mailbox on:

Monday, July 11

Monday, July 25

First Presbyterian Church
535 North Ewing Street
Helena, MT 59601

www.fpchelena.org

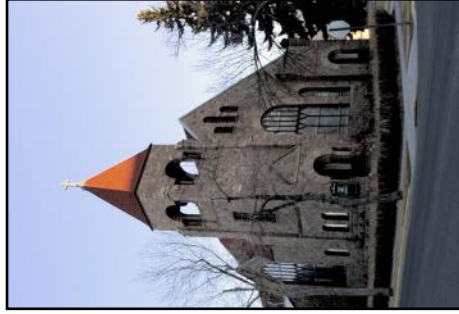
Weekly Sermon on HCTV Cable Channel 189
Wednesdays at 6 pm & Saturdays at 9 AM

OFFICE HOURS
Monday - Friday
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

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